

FOR MORE INFORMATION

For Secretary of State Police services in your area,
please contact:

Command Center

Springfield 217-782-7126

Uniformed District Offices

Villa Park 630-693-0551
Elgin 815-484-8100
Springfield 217-785-5486
Mt. Vernon 618-244-8343
Belleville 618-236-8765

Salvage Vehicle Inspection Stations

Villa Park 630-693-0551
Belleville 618-236-8755
Springfield 217-557-2084

Police Inquiry Unit

Springfield 217-785-0309



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Secretary of State Police

HAZARDOUS DEVICE UNIT



Alexi Giannoulias
Illinois Secretary of State

The Hazardous Device Unit — or “Bomb Squad” — was established by the Secretary of State Police in 1976. It is staffed by highly trained investigators/bomb technicians who provide statewide service to federal, state and local agencies. The unit is equipped with a response vehicle, bomb transport trailer, bomb suits, X-ray machines and other specialized tools needed to handle possible explosive devices.

Mission

The mission of the Hazardous Device Unit is to disarm explosive devices and provide training to fire and police departments as well as to businesses at risk for bomb threats. The unit has statewide jurisdiction and responds to about 250 calls annually.

Training

Technicians in the unit receive specialized training conducted by the FBI and the U.S. Army at the Redstone Arsenal in Huntsville, Alabama. Licensed by the Illinois Department of Natural Resources to use explosives, investigators are trained as hazardous materials technicians to comply with federal regulations about calls involving hazardous materials. The unit also provides services to the Environmental Protection Agency by disposing of explosive chemicals. Unit members are trained by the University of Illinois Fire Institute and provide training for new firefighters at the institute. They also are certified by the Illinois Law Enforcement Training Board to teach topics related to explosives.

Experience

The Hazardous Device Unit has more than 30 years experience in bomb threat management, providing training to school administrators and those in other high-risk public and private businesses. Training is essential in making a bomb threat management program functional.

Management

Illinois has a high incidence of bombings compared to other states. A comprehensive bomb threat management plan serves several purposes. The plan will:

- Identify why an institution is at risk and who is most likely to be a threat.
- Identify public areas most likely to be targeted for a possible explosive device.
- Provide a process to complete a non-evacuation search in a short time.
- Give supervisory personnel information to determine if an evacuation is needed.
- Select an evacuation site that provides safety for workers.

Planning

County sheriffs and city police chiefs can identify schools, high-risk businesses, and public and private facilities in need of bomb threat management planning, and contact the Secretary of State Police for training. The unit can provide police and fire departments, as well as school and business administrators, a bomb threat management plan suited to their individual needs. (See back of brochure for contact information.)